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MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

VOLUME 3

ST. PAUL, MARCH, 1910.

No. 1

MARGARET J. EVANS, Northfield, *Chairman*.
GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, Minneapolis.
CYRUS NORTROP, Minneapolis.
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WARREN UPHAM, St. Paul.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.
MARTEA WILSON, *Librarian*.
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LIBRARY PROGRESS IN 1909.

During the year 1909, but one library was added to the list of those established under state law, this being the library at Coleraine, where a Carnegie donation of \$15,000 has been received, and the building is now being erected. This makes a total of 73 free municipal libraries, to which should now be added the library at Paynesville, which carried the election in favor of a half mill tax for library purposes early in March. In addition to these there are six free libraries maintained by associations which have received direct appropriations from the council, including Detroit, \$250; Howard Lake, \$75; New Richland, \$50; Mantorville, \$100, besides rent and heat; Staples, \$120; and North Mankato, which received \$500 in 1909 to purchase a building. Twelve other association libraries are provided with rooms in the city hall or court house.

Three flourishing association libraries have been added to the list in 1909, at Blackduck, Dodge Center and Long Prairie, making a total of 33 libraries maintained in this way.

Important gifts of the year are as follows:

Albert Lea, bequest of \$200 from Mrs. Hannah Esping.

Coleraine, \$15,000 for a building from Andrew Carnegie.

Crookston, \$200 from the Women's Club.

Fergus Falls, \$100 for books from the High School Class of 1909.

Minneapolis Memorial building in Camden Park, with library branch and reading room on second floor, from Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Webber.

Park Rapids, \$138 from Ladies' Library Club.

Preston, \$8,000 for a building from Andrew Carnegie.

Two Harbors, \$200 for books from Austin Terryberry.

Carnegie buildings have been completed at Two Harbors, Park Rapids, Mapleton, Bemidji and Northfield, a building has been purchased and remodeled for the library at North Mankato and the libraries at Monticello, Winnebago and Benson have moved into new quarters, Monticello having a room specially planned for the purpose, with separate entrance, in the new school building.

Three new stations and branches have been opened in Minneapolis, the St. Paul library is sending books to six additional schools and to the Boys' Department of the Y. M. C. A. and a new branch has been opened in Duluth.

The increased county appropriation at Grand Rapids has enabled the library to extend its circulation among farmers and homesteaders in all parts of the county. The County Commissioners of Meeker County have again made an appropriation of \$150 to the Litchfield library.

Trained librarians have been appointed at Two Harbors and Virginia, to meet the enlarged opportunities for work in both cities.

STATISTICS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

PLACE	Population (1905 Census)	Year Established	RECEIPTS, 1909				EXPENDITURES, 1909				Volumes Added 1907	Total Volumes In Library		Borrowers		Circulation 1909	Librarian
			Taxes	*Other Receipts	Total	Books	Period- icals	Binding	*Other Expenses	Total		City	Country				
Altlin	1,896	1896	499.39	333.85	833.24	235.44	.....	21.60	131.94	388.98	418	1,440	750	80	8,800	Esther L. Seavey.
Albert Lea	5,657	1897	1,491.81	112.18	1,603.99	288.71	16.80	154.00	1,237.98	1,697.49	371	4,641	2,561	5	25,479	Mrs. Elizabeth Brainerd.	
Alexandria	3,051	1881	1,196.14	1,590.88	2,787.02	271.58	+	.....	2,048.37	2,313.95	306	6,549	778	3	10,369	James Fitzgerald.
Anoka	4,053	1894	1,450.00	892.79	2,342.79	426.71	33.35	47.90	921.51	1,489.47	296	4,514	900	166	15,663	Mrs. Orra C. Bland.	
Austin	6,489	1869	1,930.74	926.47	2,857.21	508.87	67.05	62.40	1,362.11	2,000.43	621	6,409	2,400	8	24,053	Mrs. Flora C. Conner.	
Bemidji	3,800	1904	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79	1,620	735	4	7,749	Beatrice Mills.
Blue Earth	2,864	1900	863.11	509.78	1,372.89	199.07	54.13	29.05	686.37	968.62	148	2,737	1,341	130	10,344	Alta M. Cummings.	
Brainerd	8,133	1899	1,087.87	745.72	1,833.59	280.24	25.00	71.47	674.88	1,051.59	309	3,096	993	5	14,333	Maud Halladay.	
Buffalo	1,124	1907	198.70	191.12	389.82	72.85	16.80	17.15	173.30	280.10	184	981	452	36	4,622	Clara L. Oakley.	
Clouet	6,117	1895	2,474.06	52.66	2,526.72	321.57	+	+	1,667.83	1,989.40	220	3,627	2,018	.....	17,510	Harriet Louise Lowe.
Coleraine .....	.....	1908	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Crookston	6,794	1902	14,500.00	463.45	14,963.45	3,067.33	+	714.70	9,395.89	13,177.92	364	3,364	1,024	.....	17,375	Elizabeth Lommen.
Duluth	64,942	1890	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,457	53,351	12,614	.....	135,920	Frances Earhart (Acting Lib'n).
Evansville	452	1893	46.52	139.90	186.42	26.45	.....	.....	655.47	76.45	24	705	.....	.....	1,633	O. J. Wallen.
Farbault	2,995	1879	1,014.55	505.89	1,520.44	416.75	41.65	.....	1,318.79	1,849.00	432	8,487	793	4	9,956	Minnie Bird.
Fergus Falls	8,279	1897	1,742.76	653.28	2,396.04	272.21	180.50	77.50	1,318.79	1,849.00	432	8,487	793	4	9,956	Minnie Bird.	
Glenwood	6,922	1890	1,039.12	652.01	1,691.13	34.70	50.50	65.00	1,361.34	1,511.54	404	3,896	2,695	.....	11,039	Amy A. Lewis.
Graceville	1,718	1908	897.82	504.68	1,392.30	4.00	33.80	.....	1,044.82	1,082.82	142	1,311	342	2	2,669	Honora C. McLachlan.
Grand Marais	1,032	1902	502.42	238.72	741.14	153.10	23.55	.....	249.95	426.60	187	1,867	595	197	5,496	Anna O'Brien.
Grand Meadow	448	1905	10.18	295.89	306.07	209.11	.....	.....	39.12	248.23	370	370	135	7	1,270	Maud E. Small.
Grand Rapids	459	1901	25.00	22.78	47.78	.....	.....	.....	20.00	20.00	1	217	193	.....	1,183	Agnus Keeler.
Granite Falls	2,055	1900	11,326.91	118.56	14,445.47	248.13	76.25	119.30	822.63	1,266.31	126	1,860	833	98	10,213	Mrs. Elizabeth S. Huntley.	
Hastings	1,340	1908	200.00	32.94	232.94	143.59	.....	.....	58.04	201.63	750	970	281	.....	.....	Mrs. F. T. Cressy.
Hibbing	3,810	1905	10.09	514.22	524.31	6.32	.....	.....	56.90	63.22	7	4,598	321	.....	7,000	Hazel J. Wood.
Hutchinson	6,566	1908	13,000.00	1,430.92	4,430.92	821.97	304.50	.....	2,460.56	3,587.03	1,075	2,983	1,318	.....	20,749	Margaret Palmer.
Jackson	2,489	1901	1,158.51	44.70	2,203.21	296.50	69.80	62.95	1,521.88	1,951.13	519	3,167	1,222	6	14,721	Marjorie Wakefield.	
Janesville	1,776	1880	295.32	277.42	572.74	135.29	15.00	8.75	178.23	337.27	189	1,955	383	11	5,086	Mrs. David Brown.	
Lake City	1,205	1899	300.00	50.00	350.00	.....	22.35	.....	241.55	263.90	.....	925	330	.....	4,500	Eva Harrington.
Lindstrom	2,877	1898	525.92	425.90	951.82	301.10	29.90	18.00	285.17	634.17	370	2,367	607	16	11,758	Jennie E. Baker.	
Litchfield	562	1898	200.00	134.43	334.43	55.07	25	.....	147.36	202.68	191	1,068	232	6	2,116	Clara A. Jehle.
Little Falls	2,415	1904	1,105.15	459.09	1,564.24	183.97	48.60	59.11	941.92	1,233.60	287	2,437	1,290	92	10,916	Mrs. Alice A. Lamb.	
Luverne	5,856	1893	1,009.69	232.66	1,242.35	180.65	20.15	44.05	832.51	1,077.36	271	3,224	1,650	.....	12,869	Corra E. Tanner.
Madison	2,722	1891	980.85	156.57	1,137.42	166.55	49.15	45.90	738.59	890.19	158	2,920	940	2	7,128	Mrs. D. E. Halbert.	
Mankato	1,694	1906	800.00	502.14	1,302.14	114.36	46.30	46.30	989.69	1,160.35	200	1,571	900	.....	3,880	Mrs. Emily J. Akre.
Mapleton	10,986	1894	3,976.97	2,063.41	6,040.38	1,279.78	198.16	232.80	2,864.18	4,574.92	1,143	14,920	5,230	7	45,041	Maud Van Buren.	
Marshall	938	1902	500.00	162.45	662.45	38.38	38.38	.....	113.50	151.88	43	1,133	341	141	3,183	Esther Reb. Rank.
Minneapolis	2,243	1884	110,465.44	23,489.24	133,954.68	17,777.91	3,314.18	5,431.57	77,031.44	103,555.10	24,735	198,202	60,847	.....	789,808	Elizabeth L. Rank.
Montevideo	2,535	1890	200.00	164.06	364.06	72.22	.....	.....	149.13	1,321.35	59	5,802	510	.....	2,688	Mrs. Edith B. Seals.
Monticello	1,930	1889	1,930.67	328.83	1,358.53	177.32	37.70	59.65	440.15	1,335.02	584	5,380	512	21	8,540	Mrs. Margaret E. Webb.	
Moorhead	2,731	1906	1,331.19	932.87	2,264.06	414.59	73.35	30.05	1,488.51	1,903.15	240	1,375	384	22	11,392	Edith Parker.	
Morris	4,794	1886	1,834.19	992.87	2,824.06	414.59	73.35	30.05	1,488.51	1,903.15	644	3,228	1,817	.....	12,830	Edith Whitman.
	2,003	1886	1,136.07	536.78	1,732.85	297.11	.....	.....	927.80	1,208.28	181	3,798	1,200	6	5,174	Mrs. Savylla Elliott.

STATISTICS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES—Continued.

Newport	3721889	62.30	135.28	197.58	25.00	33.00	.....	75.35	133.35	63	1,088	120	12	978
Northfield	3,4381898	1,422.50	\$6,153.70	7,582.20	132.05	106.00	30.30	6,889.34	7,157.59	410	3,777	2,448	12	Lillian E. Trevette.
Owatonna	1,6121899	219.76	150.41	370.17	65.05	1.05	.....	193.57	259.67	77	1,280	73	16	21,681 Nellie B. Gregg.
Park Rapids	5,6511896	2,497.57	2,497.57	5,002.71	1,366.65	48.95	3.10	3,213.02	4,631.72	1,066	12,571	5,047	687	4,785 Mary E. Karn.
Pipestone	1,7191900	500.00	35.96	535.96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	98	2,529	696	.....	38,575 Elizabeth H. Plumb.
Plainview	2,8851899	1,067.80	465.77	1,532.03	343.77	57.45	.....	721.32	1,123.14	453	3,653	750	15	10,812 Mrs. W. S. Stone.
Preston	1,1401908	549.72	286.49	786.21	145.53	14.95	.....	205.10	365.58	219	714	436	59	13,360 Mrs. M. T. Gilson.
Red Wing	1,3201906	316.36	131.96	448.32	51.51	12.65	.....	259.77	323.93	142	1,887	472	7	539 Bessie Gilbert.
Redwood Falls	8,1491893	2,555.22	131.33	2,686.55	467.31	147.18	85.54	1,770.44	2,471.47	516	7,784	2,079	.....	4,545 Mrs. E. B. Read.
Rochester	1,8061905	1,368.30	376.41	1,644.71	102.85	51.55	29.60	1,268.88	1,452.88	484	2,665	586	7	23,795 Effie Sands.
Rushford	7,2331865	2,725.95	399.20	3,025.15	397.82	159.19	280.19	2,555.80	3,393.00	485	10,913	3,461	8	8,171 Elizabeth Conner.
St. Cloud	1,1331877	.....	125.15	125.15	.....	26.40	.....	77.32	103.72	.....	1,629	.....	.....	35,230 Louise M. Fernald.
St. Paul	9,5221869	2,629.44	101.13	2,730.57	156.77	119.30	34.00	1,705.80	2,015.87	163	9,559	3,105	6	33,471 Mrs. Marie E. Brick.
St. Peter	197,0231883	31,800.00	34,086.26	65,886.26	7,401.81	1,436.03	5,162.05	36,746.18	50,746.07	8,899	110,277	42,040	62	409,028 Mrs. Helen J. McCaine.
Sandstone	4,5141895	1,000.00	384.95	1,384.95	94.18	65.20	77.48	842.52	1,036.38	149	4,188	1,113	17	12,674 Marian Tyler.
Sank Center	1,5891902	400.00	137.78	274.37	69.72	40.35	2.28	258.42	2,587.74	37	1,130	535	17	20,341 Mrs. O. A. Koehendorfer.
Sleepy Eye	2,4331873	1,850.13	1,411.84	2,741.97	211.31	.....	.....	2,587.74	2,587.74	203	7,339	.....	.....	6,430 Ananda Meyer.
Spring Valley	2,2321897	500.00	169.39	769.39	16.46	57.35	.....	410.00	483.81	53	2,062	200	14	3,982 Emma C. Hart.
Stillwater	1,5731901	835.30	361.72	1,147.02	44.50	34.40	46.30	612.31	3,382.01	136	2,116	951	4	11,202 Mrs. Gertrude B. McPherson.
Thief River Falls	12,3451869	||3,241.69	591.58	3,833.27	663.94	140.75	246.95	2,330.85	3,824.49	667	10,700	1,683	153	18,920 Stella Hanson.
Two Harbors	3,5021901	.....	.....	.....	246.65	.....	.....	224.35	470.90	342	1,323	842	.....	10,191 Mabel Newhard.
Virginia	4,4021896	1,426.65	\$15,885.83	17,312.48	130.90	122.45	49.15	16,099.31	16,401.81	500	2,741	2,036	.....	7,413 Allie Hallier.
Walker	6,0561905	4,733.57	890.52	5,624.09	809.60	162.60	.....	1,208.61	2,180.81	1,162	2,594	851	.....	905 Miles Dickey.
Wayzata	6521900	80.00	24.73	104.73	12.36	.....	.....	92.37	104.73	77	681	99	.....	.....
White Bear	5241904	200.00	104.20	304.20	.....	39.50	.....	232.34	272.14	50	946	145	.....	.....
Willmar	1,7241889	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Winnebago	4,0401904	1,016.17	412.28	1,428.45	193.32	101.66	58.25	828.30	1,186.53	296	3,349	2,147	3	15,957 Edith L. Frost.
Winona	1,5531899	388.15	126.48	514.63	85	18.85	.....	494.33	514.63	28	1,882	751	1	4,359 Blanche C. Seger.
Worthington	20,3341863	6,891.34	1,196.94	8,088.28	1,793.88	307.45	296.72	4,675.33	7,073.38	1,929	30,394	4,391	8	103,127 Jeannette A. Clarke.
Zumbrota	2,2761905	1,012.45	575.25	1,587.70	910.13	66.00	.....	907.68	1,883.81	1,060	3,499	939	3	18,518 Mrs. E. L. McIntosh.
	1,1291879	650.00	697.50	1,347.50	80.05	10.25	10.45	692.16	792.91	117	2,062	512	.....	6,381 Hattie E. Marvin.

*Includes unexpended balance.
†Includes county or township appropriation.
‡Includes Carnegie gift.

†Includes salaries, care of building and supplies.
‡Includes county or township appropriation.
‡Opened in September.

WHAT MAKES A NOVEL IMMORAL?*

CORINNE BACON, NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY

Perhaps there is no library topic more interesting both to librarians and to the pub-
lice whom they serve than the ethical influ-
percentage of the circulation of the average
public library. Opinions will probably al-
ways differ widely as to whether individual
novels are moral or immoral, and yet it
should be possible to establish some crite-
ria of morality in fiction to which the ma-
jority of us would be willing to consent.

The word morality must not, as is often
the case, be narrowed down to the equiva-
lent of sex morality. George Eliot's "Theophrastus Such" includes an essay on Moral
swindlers, in which two women discuss com-
mercial dishonesty. Melissa says:

"But Sir Gavial made a good use of his
money, and he is a thoroughly moral man."

"What do you mean by a thoroughly moral
man?" said I.

"Oh, I suppose everyone means the same
by that," said Melissa, with a slight air of
rebuke. "Sir Gavial is an excellent family
man—quite blameless there; and so char-
itable round his place at Tip-top. Very dif-
ferent from Mr. Barabbas, whose life, my
husband tells me, is most objectionable."

I will not repeat my answer to Melissa,
for I fear it was offensively brusque, my
opinion being that Sir Gavial was the more
pernicious scoundrel of the two, since his
name for virtue served as an effective part
of a swindling apparatus; and perhaps I
hinted that to call such a man moral showed
rather a silly notion of human affairs.

When a man whose business hours, the
solid part of every day, are spent in an un-
scrupulous course of public or private action
which has every calculable chance of caus-
ing widespread injury and misery, can be
called moral because he comes home to dine
with his wife and children, and cherishes
the happiness of his own hearth. The aug-
ury is not good for the use of high ethical
and theological disputation.

As George Eliot protests against the nar-
row use of the word "moral" to denote in
life a man who is blameless in his family
relations, so I would protest against the nar-
row use of the word "moral" to denote in
literature books that ignore the existence of
passion and the breaking of marriage vows.

A novel may have nothing objectionable
about it, so far as its love affairs go, and yet
be a thoroughly immoral book. For morality
includes the whole of life—not simply one
relation. Humanity is broader than sex—
and all of our relations to each other as
men and women are moral relations. So the
moral level, it seems to me, must deal truly
with the whole of life. A good example,
drawn from the chromo-literature of the
past, but still popular with the uncultivated
reader, of a book which confuses our moral
judgment, is August Evans "At the Mercy of
Tiberius. The hero, a lawyer, causes an
innocent young girl to be arrested for mur-
der. The evidence against her was so over-
whelming that the lawyer would have been
a gross derelict to duty had he not arrested
her. Yet in a lava-torrent of invective
which confuses right and wrong, he is pic-
tured to us as the blackest of villains. As
a more recent example of this kind of novel,
and one of more literary merit, take Mrs.
Ward's "Marriage a la Mode." This sharp
indictment of our American divorce laws is
a novel with a distinctly ethical purpose;
one "smells the tract" before covering many
pages, but whatever one may believe about
divorce, and equally good people differ, the
first thing that strikes the reader in this
story after, perhaps, its note of panic, is its
shallowness and confusion of issues. For
instance, it leaves absolutely out of the ques-
tion the right of the child, so eloquently in-
sisted upon by Ellen Key, in her "Century of
the Child," to be well born. Had Daphne
any right to go on bringing children into the
world to call "father" a man who had mar-
ried her without love, because her fortune
afforded him an easy means of self-support,
and who, when she left him, had not suffi-
cient moral stamina to remain decent, but
yielded at once to dissipation? Daphne did
not leave her husband for any such lofty
motive as the heredity of possible children,
but for purely selfish reasons. Yet this does
not prove that she should have stayed with
him. A good deed (good, that is, in its re-
sults) may be done from wrong motives.
Parents might refuse lobster a la Newburg
to a baby, because it was expensive, and
they wanted the money to go to the theater.
One may condemn their selfishness without
implying that the baby should have had the
lobster! So with Daphne—one may con-

* Reprinted by permission from *New York Libraries*, October, 1909.

demn her without drawing Mrs. Ward's conclusion. Better arguments against divorce might be found than the dictum that a woman should cling to a man who had traded on her love to live in luxury, because he was too weak to stand alone!

Then, too, a book which preaches, openly or tacitly, "Get rich, honestly if you can—but get rich anyhow—that's the main thing," is an immoral book.

"One of the most potent vehicles of moral downfall of any kind," says Mr. Bostwick in his "Librarian as a censor," is the impression that everybody does it. . . . The man who steals from his employer, or who elopes with his neighbor's wife is, nine times out of ten, a willing convert to this view. A book that conveys such an idea is really more dangerous than one which openly advocates wrongdoing.*

Or a novel may treat of love and allow its heroine no slip, and yet be what I call immoral. For an instance of this take "Pamela." "Pamela, under temptation," says Richardson, "persevered in the path of virtue, therefore my book is a moral book." Not so.

As a certain critic has aptly phrased it, Pamela's virtue consisted in holding out for a higher price. "Hold out and he may marry you," is its most obvious moral. There is a subtle immorality in this. The teaching "Be good and you'll be rewarded with a coronet," does more harm than all the coarseness of "Tom Jones." The sinful woman in the "Scarlet letter" is a healthier companion than the blameless Pamela. It is not the conduct of the heroine which determines the morality of the book.

What then does determine morality, used in the broader sense of the word? What is an immoral novel? I have already defined it as a book that leaves us worse than it found us. But just how does a novel accomplish our undoing? I think there are several ways.

1. The book may make a direct appeal to our lower nature, may exalt passion at the expense of principle. There is a class of books outside the pale of literature which aims directly to do this. Some of these books are sold on trains, kept on news stands, and may be found in the circulating libraries maintained by some stores. It seems to me, however, that there are few books amongst those making any pretense to

literary art, that deserve to be included in this class. Zola surely does not. When he debases, it is incidental, he is not deliberately aiming at that. He is trying to make a scientific study of human nature. He violates good taste and sound morality—just how, I will try to define later—but he is not immoral in the sense of making a deliberate attempt to degrade his reader.

2. The novel harms us when it confuses right and wrong. The book which does this may be quite respectable, it may contain nothing obviously offensive—and yet it may be an immoral book.

The lines which separate vice and virtue may not be clearly drawn. Our moral vision may be a little blurred. Some readers placed Gilbert Parker's "Right of way" and Meredith's "Lord Ormont" under this category. Some would place Herrick's "Together" there.

Balzac, Flaubert and Tolstoi, whose books are full of unpleasant details, never confuse our moral sense. Balzac sees life whole, life in its sins and follies as well as in its nobility, but his keen critical analysis never confuses good and evil. In Flaubert's "Mme. Bovary," so often singled out as a bad book, vice and virtue are never confounded, our sympathies are never enlisted on the wrong side. True, the book deals with the love affairs of a married woman, but the picture never allures us for an instant. I almost incline to say with Henry James that "Mme. Bovary" would make "the most useful of Sunday school tracts"—for those of a certain age.

Higginson, in his volume of essays entitled "Book and heart," has an essay on the discontinuance of the guideboard, which every one interested in modern fiction ought to read. He shows very clearly why such books as those just mentioned are popularly supposed to confuse vice and virtue. It is because they are not tagged with a moral. As he expresses it, "they raise no guideboard marked 'Dangerous passing.'" This discontinuance of the guideboard rises, he thinks, from the fact that "fiction is drawing nearer to life." To quote his own words:

In real life, as we see it, the moral is usually implied and inferential, not painted on a board. . . . The eminent sinner dies amid tears and plaudits, not in the state prison, as he should; the seed of the righte-

* A. L. A. Bulletin, Sept. '08, p. 118

ous is often seen begging bread. We have to read very carefully between the lines if we would fully recognize the joy of Marcellus exiled, the secret ennui of Caesar with a Senate at his heels. Thus it is in daily life—that is, in nature; and yet many still think it a defect in a story if it leaves a single moral influence to be worked out by the meditation of the reader. On my lending to an intelligent young woman Hamlin Garland's "Main-traveled roads," she returned it with the remark that she greatly admired all the stories except the first, which seemed to her immoral. It closed as she justly pointed out, with a striking scene in which a long absent lover carries off the wife and child of a successful but unworthy rival, and the tale ends with the words: "The sun shone on the dazzling, rustling wheat; the fathomless sky as a sea bent over them, and the world lay before them." But when I pointed out to her, what one would think must be clear at a glance to every reader, that beyond this momentary gleam of beauty lay an absolutely hopeless future; that though the impulse of action was wholly generous, and not even passionate, yet Nemesis was close behind; and that the mere fact of the woman's carrying another man's baby in her arms would prevent all permanent happiness with her lover; my friend could only reply that it was very true, but she had never thought of it. In other words, the guideboard was not there. The only thing that could have disarmed her criticism would have been a distinct announcement on the author's part: "N. B., The situation is dangerous;" just as Miss Edgeworth used to append to every particularly tough statement: N. B., This is a fact. The same misjudgment (says Mr. Higginson) is often passed for the same reason upon Tolstoi's "Anna Karenina," which surely is among all books upon this same theme, the most utterly relentless. "Not merely does it not contain, from beginning to end, a prurient scene or even a voluptuous passage, but its plot moves as inexorably as a Greek fate. Even Hawthorne allows his guilty lovers, in the "Scarlet letter," a moment of delusive happiness; even Hawthorne recognizes the unquestionable truth that the foremost result of a broken law is sometimes an enchanting sense of freedom. Tolstoi tolerates no such enchantment; and he has written the only novel of illicit love, perhaps, in

which the offenders—both being persons otherwise high-minded and noble—fail to derive from their sin one hour of even temporary happiness. . . Yet "Anna Karenina" has often been condemned as immoral, in the absence of the guideboard."

3. A book may neither appeal to our worse selves, nor fail to distinguish good from evil, and may yet be so untrue to life as to be immoral. Truth is the corner-stone of virtue, for without that as a foundation, courage, honor, love—all that makes life best worth the living is impossible. An atmosphere of untruth, whether created by the people with whom we associate, or by the books which we read, can not but injure us. Among books that hurt us by their untruth to life, one would not of course include those creations of pure fancy which do not pretend to picture life as it is. The fairy tale, the tale of pure adventure, such as Stevenson's "Treasure island," are creations of the imagination with no relation to real life. They are neither moral nor immoral, but just unmoral, save in the broad sense in which anything that gives us legitimate and harmless amusement may be called moral, for without amusement we can not be truly sane.

The impossible story must, however, remain in the air, in the realm of the impossible; the mixture of the fantastic and the realistic is neither art nor life. J. A. Mitchell's story, "Gloria victis," will illustrate what I mean by this mixture of the realistic and the impossible. The hero is a boy whose mother has run away with her lover, and whose father is a commercial sharper. He naturally inherits many evil tendencies. For a time he is taken into the family of a clergyman whose daughter is unhappily married. The boy, moved by a wish to secure the happiness of those who have been so kind to him, pushes the daughter's husband over a cliff, one day when they were out hunting together, and kills him. Surprised at the effect upon the family of this murder, dictated solely by his kindness of heart, the boy runs away and joins a circus. Later, he falls in love with a girl who performs on the trapeze. He has inherited from his mother an ungovernable temper. In a fit of passion he strikes and kills the woman he loves. At this juncture, the Lord Jesus appears in the guise of a carpenter and brings the girl to life that

the hero may have a change to experience wedded bliss. The first part of the story is a realistic description of a street gamin almost minus a moral nature; the latter part is pure fairy tale. I think you will all agree with me that this mixture of the imaginative and the real results in a false, unhealthy story. Of course I do not mean to imply that the imagination plays no part in the construction of the novel of real life. I believe there can be no true novel of real life through which there does not shine the light of the artistic imagination. All I wish to insist upon here is that a novel which pretends to be a picture of life must be consistent with itself.

Putting aside, then, the purely imaginative tale as legitimate, the novels of real life may be untrue in several ways.

a. Through an impossible psychology. A good instance of this is Mrs. Burnett's "Lady of quality." Clorinda may do her best to make us believe in her reality, we can not help the lurking suspicion that, like the children at their play, she is only "pretending." She never was, and never will be, outside that novel. I do not mean to deny that a woman may rise from a fall strong in repentance and right purpose. It is not true that for one sin only is there no redemption. But Clorinda never repents. Brought up among her father's low boon companions, she leads a wild life with them. Suddenly she determines to make herself into a respected woman. To hide her past from her future husband she becomes involved in a scene with her former lover, Sir John Oxon, which ends in her striking him dead with a heavy whip. Clorinda did not mean to hit so hard, but one feels that she is more relieved than troubled by the event, as she calmly conceals the corpse under the sofa, and proceeds with her afternoon reception. She is held up to us ever after as a sweet saint, pedestaled upon the ruins of the Ten Commandments, and revered by all who knew her. Now this is a psychological impossibility. A woman might emerge from such experiences strong and pure, but her way would lie through agony of soul, and she would always carry the scars of her early life.

To take a more recent example, Trevena's "Arminel of the West," written *per-life* method of bringing up a girl, seems haps to show the danger of the "sheltered to me psychologically untrue.

b. By one-sidedness. It may fail to observe the truth of proportion. And just here lies Zola's greatest offense; not in that he sometimes bids us to walk along muddy ways, but that our eyes are forced downward until we see nothing but the mud. The blue sky is blotted out—for us; the sun no longer shines—for us; only the black, slimy mud is real. As Countess Tolstoi has said of some recent writers, we are invited "to examine the decomposed corpse of human degradation and to close our eyes to God's wonderful, vast world with the beauties of nature, with the majesty of art, with the lofty yearnings of the human soul." Now such a treatment of life is false. The sunset is as real as the mud puddle, virtue is as true as vice, and the book which dwells upon evil to the exclusion of good is as damnably false to life as the book which denies the existence of good. Such an author defeats his own end. His black is not so black to our eyes as though he had pictured it on a background of shining whiteness.

Tolstoi gives us an example of the same thing in the "Kreutzer sonata," and Hamlin Garland in his "Rose of Dutcher's coolly." People tell us that these books are true. So they are, up to a certain point, and therein lies their greatest harm. They are of the company of those "half truths" which are "ever the worst of lies." They emphasize one side of man's nature out of all proportion to the other. They lack a horizon.

c. By morbidity. Perhaps this morbidity is but another phase of the one-sidedness of which I have spoken. A good example of this is the leaden pessimism of Olive Schreiner's "Story of an African farm," the disgusting horrors of Nesbit's "House with no address," which unlike the gruesome tales of Poe, affords no keen intellectual delight, or the abnormal eroticism of Le Gallienne's "Golden girl" or of Hardy's "Jude the obscure." I suppose that Mr. Hardy would tell us that Sue and Jude are true to life. Perhaps so; but to a phase of life so uncommon and so diseased as to find its proper place and treatment in medicine rather than in fiction. They are untrue to the normal life of men and women. Their sadness is not "the pleasant and the tonic sadness, always brave, never hysterical," of which Stevenson approves. As for Le Gallienne, like others of the "exotic, erotic, Tommyrotic school of fiction," he sets us

sighing for the days of Fielding. There is a manly and unmanly way even of being nasty.

d. By falseness to the facts of life. Julie P. Smith of Connecticut, author of "Kiss and be friends," "The married belle" and many other pleasing (?) tales, is never, so far as I know called immoral. Personally, I think books such as her "Lucy" most hurtful. Lucy has been forced to earn her living in a store. Mr. Ramestone, an old bachelor, who lives with his sister, and thinks a business life destructive of all that is holiest in woman, engages her as a servant, when the sister happens to be away. Lucy is bidden to take off her cap and apron, and sit at table with her master, who ventures upon little familiarities with her, finally makes decided love to her, asks her to marry him, and presents her with a magnificent diamond necklace. Could anything be more absurd? More untrue to life? A girl at service who might be influenced by that book to encourage a man's familiarities, would have a rude awakening when she found that however those things might be arranged in the world of Julie P. Smith, in the world of live men and women, neither marriage nor diamonds would be her reward. This book is false to life, written in poor English, vulgar in treatment, but it must be considered moral, forsooth, because it does not mention a woman—or a man—who is a "sinner"! And yet when it is proposed to give the high school girl, who probably is reading trash like this, a truly moral book, a book that kindles thought and inspires to noble feeling, that braces rather than enervates the mind—Victor Hugo's "Les misérables"—a Philadelphia school committee (with the exception of one woman) cry, "Out upon it—it mentions a grisette. It is a corrupting book!" And they vote it out of their schools. There is greater danger in a false picture of life than in the admission of certain true, but disagreeable, facts. Daniel G. Thompson, in his "Philosophy of fiction," says:

"The 'sheltered life' theory as to both girls and boys is carried altogether too far, knowledge must come some time; better that it be acquired naturally and accurately when it is sought rather than to have formed in the mind a wrong 'illusion' of

life, as M. de Maupassant calls it, by a process of that *suppressio veri* which is to the young a *suggestio falsi*."* Walter Bagehot, while admitting that the "indiscriminate study of human life" is not desirable for young women, speaks of the "serious evil" of the "habitual formation of a scheme of thought and a code of morality upon incomplete material," in these terms: "The readers for whose sake the omissions are made can not fancy what is left out. Many a girl of the present day reads novels, and nothing but novels; she forms her mind by them, as far as she forms it by reading at all. . . They form her idea of the world, they define her taste, and modify her morality; not so much in explicit thought and direct act, as unconsciously and in her floating fancy. How is it possible to convince such a girl, especially if she is clever, that on most points she is all wrong? . . . She has a vivid picture of a patch of life."†

"Surely," says Mr. Bostwick, "we have outlived the idea that innocence and ignorance are the same thing. 'You can't touch pitch,' says the proverb, 'and not be defiled.' Granted; yet, we may look at pitch, or any other dirt, and locate it, without harm; nay, we must do so if we want to keep out of it.‡

Many books which are glaringly untrue to life may injure us in another way—may lower our mental and moral tone by vulgarity of treatment, like Phillips's "Old wives for new"; by oversentimentality, like E. P. Roe's novels; or by the lack of any element which stimulates thought (there are not pages enough in "New York Libraries" to cite all the good illustrations of this!) We must not, however, confuse questions of morals with questions of taste. This is emphasized by Mr. Bostwick, who tells us in his "Librarian as a censor" that "some books full of impropriety, or even of indecency, are absolutely unimpeachable from a moral standpoint." Also there is an outspokenness which neither betokens in the author nor cultivates in the reader a low tone of mind, and there is a plainness of speech which reveals a mind tinctured with vulgarity, or worse. As to Roe, a woman who had been for years a teacher of young girls, once told me that she thought the morbid sentimentality of his novels had the worst

* Philosophy of fiction, p. 179.

† Bagehot. Literary studies, v. 2, p. 121.

‡ Bagehot. Literary studies, v. 2, p. 117.

possible influence upon growing girls. There is a time in a girl's life when any and every side of her nature should be appealed to rather than the emotional, which is just then in danger of losing its balance. Then thought should be stimulated, the powers of judgment strengthened, while the latent morbid emotion is left to starve. As to those books commonly called "harmless," they are not harmless so far as they weaken us mentally. Our muscles, unused, grow weak. So do our minds. It is immoral to bolt down book after book which tend to make us incapable of continuous mental effort. To quote George Birkbeck Hill:*

"But grievous tho' his (Fielding's) fallings were, he did not add one more to them. He never degrades the intellect. . . I could wish to see no young girl read "Tom Jones" or even "Joseph Andrews." . . But I would rather see her reading Fielding, who would teach her much that is good, who would train her in wit and in the knowledge of some of the best qualities of the heart, than the works of many modern female novelists . . . whose views of life are as low and base as the style in which they write, and as inaccurate as their English; and who have neither wit, nor humor, nor sense, nor learning, nor knowledge to throw into the scale as a balance to the vast weight of unworthy qualities which they have heaped upon the other side. . . They leave those who indulge in them intellectually unfit for any work which requires sustained thought. They are the dramshop keepers of the world of letters."

And Charles Dudley Warner says:†

"Bad art in literature is bad morals. I am not sure but the so-called domestic, the diluted, the 'goody,' namby-pamby, unrobust stories, which are so largely read by school-girls, young ladies and women, do more harm than the 'knowing,' audacious, wicked ones, also, it is reported, read by them. . . For minds enfeebled and relaxed by stories lacking even intellectual fiber are in a poor condition to meet the perils of life. . . They (novels of domestic life) are called moral; in the higher sense they are immoral, for they tend to lower the moral tone and stamina of every reader."

It follows then from all this that the question of morality is largely a question of

treatment rather than of subject-matter. True, there are a few subjects that a good art, as well as a good morality, would abandon to the doctor or to the professional psychologist. Art is selective, not photographic, and the novelist an artist, who must exercise his power of selection.

Mrs. Deland, in her lecture upon "The value of the novel," says:

"True things never defile;

Facts may:

But truth is the soul of the facts."

If we are to understand by this that the knowledge of disagreeable facts can not harm us if we keep fast hold of the spiritual side of life, and view these facts in their proper relation to the whole, I think we must assent to the proposition. It does not matter much into how deep a gulf of the knowledge of sin and sorrow we plunge, if we rise out of it with a deepened sense of the noble possibilities of human nature, with an intellect quickened in its thoughts upon life, a soul sweetened by a truer sympathy with men and women and more alive to help them, a glimpse of the divine sunshine which lightens the shadiest places of this world. This difference in the treatment of a subject makes all the difference between a good book and a bad one. Take the subject of an illicit love, Henry James says of one of the books of that master of style, Guy de Maupassant, that it pictures "a world where every man is a cad and every woman a harlot." Such a book must demoralize. Daudet's "Sapho" deals with similar facts, but it does not confuse our perception of good and evil. The sin works itself out to its natural tragic end—the ruin of character. Hawthorne's "Scarlet letter" rises to greater heights and deals with sin in a way that inspires us, because it gives us a glimpse of the divine possibility of the redemption of a soul that has strayed. So long as we remember that man has a soul, and treat life from the soul's point of view, we are pretty safe in treating what phase of life we will. Note the difference between some of Gorky's earliest translated stories and his "Mother." In the former we get unrelieved brutality; in the latter there are enough disagreeable facts, but we gain a horizon, we watch the growth of a human soul.

* Writers and readers, p. 79.

† Relation of literature to life, p. 140, 150.

Practically, we all admit, when the novel is not in question, that morality depends upon the treatment of a subject rather than upon the subject itself. I need only instance, with Vernon Lee, the distinction we make between poetry and prose. She says, that the same public which welcomes "Aurora Leigh," "Measure for measure," "Othello," "Cymbeline," and "The ring and the book" would have nothing to do with a novelist who should develop the same themes as frankly in prose. Is not this largely because poetry treats of a subject in a more elevated style? Another case in point is that of the Bible. Most of us are not given to calling the plain-spokenness of the Biblical writers immoral.

A novel may be true, may deal nobly with life, yet to one person it will be a moral, to another an immoral book. For by immoral, I mean hurtful, and the hurtfulness of a book depends partly upon qualities inherent in the book, and partly upon the tone of mind to which that book is brought. Then, too, what seems moral to one generation, will not seem so to another. Morality is not absolute but relative. It varies from age to age. Man has always felt within him the imperative—"Thou shalt do good and not evil," but the determination of what was good and what was evil has sorely perplexed him and his views have changed with the changing centuries. Usury, which meant in its old signification the taking of any interest, was, in Old testament times, a deadly sin. "Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" says the Psalmist, "He that putteth not out his money to usury. . . ."^{*} Cicero mentions that Cato, when asked what he thought of usury, turned upon his questioner with a query as to what he thought of murder?[†] Then came a time when the receipt of interest seriously burdened no one's conscience. Today, the Socialists have returned to the older point of view. Slavery was at first a necessity, was right. Bagehot argues that mankind could progress only by having a leisure class, who were not brutalized by overwork, but had time for thought. He holds that in early times, when the soil was free to all, this was only obtainable by the enslavement of some. But in the 19th century slavery had become a sin to be

wiped out in blood. Now just as actions may be moral in one age, and immoral in another, so may books. The vulgar frankness of "Tom Jones" was not hurtful in the day in which it was written. Fielding said of it, as you know, that there was "nothing in it to offend the chastest ear." On the other hand the brutal coarseness of certain novels of today is immoral, because it is self-conscious. Maurice Thompson puts this matter well in speaking of art: "Nakedness, physical and spiritual, in art was a sincere reflex of Greek religion, Greek civilization. It was unconsciously projected. Not so with us; when we go naked it is done self-consciously, with the full understanding that nakedness is not decent."[‡]

The idea of what constitutes morality differs, not only in different ages, but in different countries. For instance, with us, virtue—in a woman—means purity, while in Japan, a good girl places obedience to parents above personal purity, and the fact that she has sold herself to a life of shame for their maintenance, does not necessarily debar her from marriage.[§] Now where national ideas of virtue are so different, the tone of the literature will be different, and a book which is moral judged by the standards of one country becomes immoral in another.

Then, too, in every country we find people in different stages of progress, who will therefore vary in their notions of morality. Brooklyn, years ago, had a superintendent of schools, or member of the Board of Education, I've forgotten which, who was stirred to the depths of his soul by the recitation in our public schools of such an immoral poem as Longfellow's "Building of the ship!" His objection was based upon the fact that the ship was pictured as leaping "into the ocean's arms," and that Longfellow went on to say:

How beautiful she is! How fair
She lies within those arms, that press
Her form with many a soft caress
Of tenderness and watchful care.

And probably less than 50 years ago, an American divine could write thus of Scott:

"But, say you, has any author ever read Byron and Moore, Hume and Paine, Scott, Bulwer and Cooper? Yes, he has read them all with too much care. He knows every

^{*} Psalms, 15:1, 5.

[†] Encyclopedia Britannica, art. *Usury*.

[‡] Ethics of literary art, p. 28.

[§] Bacon Japanese girls, p. 217; Norman Real Japan, p. 179, 293; Knapp Feudal and Mediaeval Japan, p. 167; Curtis Yankees of East, v. 2, p. 506; Griffis Mikado's empire, p. 556; Finck Lotos-time, p. 89, 285.

rock and every quicksand; and he solemnly declares to you that the only good which he is conscious of ever having received from them is a deep impression that men who possess talents of such compass and power, and so perverted in their application, must meet the day of judgment under a responsibility which would be cheaply removed by the price of a world. . . *

"Robert Hall found the moral tales of Miss Edgeworth debasing. Thompson tells us that *"Jane Eyre"* was pronounced too immoral to be ranked as decent literature; George Eliot's *"Adam Bede"* was characterized as the 'vile outpourings of a lewd woman's mind'; and Mrs. Browning's *"Aurora Leigh"* was described as the 'hysterical indecencies of an erotic mind.'"[†] It was predicted of Bret Harte's *"Luck of Roaring Camp"* that its immorality would kill the magazine which printed it. It must also be remembered that as the same book may help one person and hurt another, so it may hurt one person at one age and help him at another; that there are books that while not healthy food for growing girls and boys, may have only an ennobling influence on those of mature years.

After all, the main test of a book is the personal one: How does it affect me? There are undoubtedly some books of which it may be said that they are always harmful; to every one, at every age, in every time. But of the great majority we can only say that we must pick and choose our friends in the book world just as we do in the real world, not looking for perfection in books any more than we do in people, but choosing those that are akin to us, and that help rather than hurt us. There are people who rasp us, people who debase us, and there are people whose mere presence in the room makes us saner and happier. And so with books. "For the moral tendency of books," says Ruskin, "no such practised sagacity is needed to determine that. The sense, to a healthy mind, of being strengthened or enervated by reading is just as definite and unmistakable as the sense to a healthy body, of being in fresh or foul air."[‡] So if the air be fresh, let us not be too particular about the style of furniture in the room, nor insistent that there shall be upon the wall a sign distinctly stating the percen-

tage of oxygen in the air. If the soul of the book be true and noble, let us not condemn it because it tells of an unmarried mother like Mrs. Gaskell's *"Ruth"* or Alice Brown's *"Thyrza"* or of a man in love with a married woman, like James Lane Allen's *"Choir invisible."* A librarian once told me, that he excluded from his library all books in which a man ran away with another man's wife, but this does not seem a wise line of exclusion! Rosina Vokes, in one of her plays, used to sing a little song the refrain of which ran,

But what matter what you do,
So your heart be true?

And so with the novelist. What does it matter of what he writes so that his heart be true to the finer possibilities in human nature? The book which degrades our intellect, vulgarizes our emotions, kills our faith in our kind, is an immoral book; the book which stimulates thought, quickens our sense of humor, gives us a deeper insight into men and women and a finer sympathy with them, is a moral book, let its subject-matter have as wide a range as life itself.

SUMMER SCHOOL, 1910.

The annual session of the Summer School for Library Training will be held as usual at the State University, June 20th to July 29th, 1910. The school is under the direction of the Secretary of the Commission, who will give the lectures on organization and administration. The instruction in classification, cataloging and other technical subjects will be given by Miss Miriam E. Carey, Organizer of the Commission. Miss Martha Wilson, Librarian of the Commission, will give the lectures on book-selection, reference work and binding. It is expected that a special course in children's work dealing particularly with selection and use of books will be given by Miss Effie L. Power, first assistant in the children's department at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Miss Power has had wide experience in work with schools, and her lectures will be open to teachers in the general summer school who have charge of school libraries.

It is expected that Mr. Chalmers Hadley, Secretary of the A. L. A., will be present and give a public lecture on library matters in the regular afternoon series before

* Appleton, v. 8, p. 348-49.

† Philosophy of fiction, p. 191.

‡ Fors Clavigera, v. 8, p. 7.

the entire summer school, as well as a special lecture to the library class. Other special lectures will be given by members of the Commission and representative Minnesota librarians.

The usual visits to libraries in the Twin Cities and nearby towns, to binderies, bookshops, etc., will be an important and interesting feature of the course.

The course is only open to those holding library positions, or under definite appointment to such positions, and to teachers in charge of school libraries. There is no tuition fee for students holding positions in Minnesota, but a fee of \$10 is paid by those registered from other states.

Full announcement, with information regarding registration, rooms and board, will soon be issued, and all inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Mackinac Conference, 1910.

The A. L. A. conference of 1910 will be held at Mackinac Island, Michigan, June 30th to July 6th.

Librarians who know Mackinac Island best are the most enthusiastic over its selection for the next A. L. A. conference. It has unusual historical, topographical and romantic interest. In its small area, about three miles long and two miles wide, there is a great diversity of scenery, with harbors, caves, towering rocks and beautiful forests. The altitude of Mackinac Island rises to 318 feet above the surrounding waters and the mean temperature for many years has been 57 degrees in June, 65 in July and 64 in August.

The summit of the island is crowned by old Fort Mackinac built in 1780, and among other interesting features are the beautiful boulevard which encircles the island, Scott's cave, Sugar Loaf, Arch and Temple Rocks, the historic battlefield, Indian burying ground, etc. The views from the rocks mentioned above are impressive.

Mackinac Island is a strategic point and was in possession of the French in early days. The British took it in 1760, and it was captured by Pontiac in the Indian revolt of 1763. It was one of the early frontier posts of the Astor Fur Co., and is now a military post and reservation of the United States.

The Grand Hotel with a capacity of about 800 guests will be the headquarters of the A. L. A. during the conference. Plans are being considered to obtain good rates both by rail and by boat. For those attending from Minnesota probably the best plan will be to go by boat from Duluth. The trip through Lake Superior is a most delightful one and if a sufficiently large party is made up, it is hoped that good rates may be obtained for the trip. Any who are planning to attend the meeting are requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Commission without delay, so that definite plans may be outlined as soon as possible. Minnesota should have a good representation at this meeting, as it will doubtless be several years before so good an opportunity to attend the A. L. A. will again be offered to librarians in the Middle West, and the delightful location offers an inducement to combine a vacation trip with the library meeting.

Brussels Library Congress.

A large number of American librarians are planning to attend the International Congress of librarians and archivists in Brussels, August 28-31. The steamer *Vaderland* of the Red Star line, sailing from New York August 6, has been chosen as the official steamer, and its entire first cabin has been reserved for this party.

The cost of the trip will be \$385, including all necessary expenses of travel and sight-seeing. A feature of unusual interest will be a visit to Oberammergau for the performance of the Passion Play, September 4th.

Arrangements for the trip are in charge of the Bureau of University Travel, Trinity Place, Boston, Mass., to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association will probably be held in Fairmont early in October. An urgent invitation from the North Dakota Library Association to hold a joint meeting in Fargo and Moorhead was received by the Executive Committee, but in view of the fact that Moorhead is too far away from most of our libraries to insure a representative attendance from Minnesota, it has been decided that the invitation from Fairmont, which has been extended for several years, should be accepted, while librarians in the north-

ern and northwestern parts of the state should attend the meeting at Fargo and Moorhead.

The A. L. A. representative will be present at both meetings, and the programs will be of equal interest and value.

It is hoped that every library in the state may be represented at one of these meetings, and it is not too soon for library boards to begin to make plans to this end. To quote from an editorial in a recent number of "Public Libraries":

"The encouragement that grows out of a feeling of 'esprit de corps' is a valuable asset in the work of a librarian, and one of the first things to receive attention ought to be membership in the state and national library associations. Attendance of the librarian at the meetings of the same ought to be among the first things put in the library budget each year, as one of the surest ways of securing the most important factor in the library, namely, an up-to-date, wide-awake, sympathetic librarian."

For many of the small libraries membership and attendance at the A. L. A. meetings is out of the question, but the state meetings are within the reach of all. Many of our libraries have adopted the custom of paying the expenses of the librarian to these meetings and every library board in the state should consider this matter, not as a personal favor to the librarian, but solely on a business basis.

ROUND TABLE MEETINGS.

A series of round table meetings is being arranged to take place during April and May. Four of these were held in the spring of 1909, and the meetings this year will be planned in most instances to include districts which were not included last spring. Arrangements have already been made to hold a meeting at Virginia, April 7th and 8th, to which all libraries in the northeastern part of the state will be invited, and another meeting may be held at Albert Lea the last of April.

These meetings are entirely informal, and are not designed to entail any expense or responsibility on the hostess library, but should be simply a neighborhood gathering of librarians to promote acquaintance and

discuss the practical every-day problems of library work.

The Secretary of the Commission would be glad to hear from any library which especially desires to have such a meeting, and the interest and co-operation of all the libraries in the state is asked in carrying out this plan.

TWIN CITY LIBRARY CLUB.

The Twin City Library Club held its regular meeting Dec. 6, 1909. About 50 members took dinner together at the Holmes Hotel, after which the club was called to order in the directors' room of the Minneapolis Public Library. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report, showing a balance on hand of \$9.01, was presented.

After a full discussion as to the advisability of holding meetings every two months or less frequently, Miss Countryman moved that the constitution be so amended as to provide for two regular meetings each year, with the understanding that other meetings could be arranged by the executive committee whenever it seemed desirable or necessary. The appointment of a program committee was left to the discretion of the executive committee.

A nominating committee, consisting of Mr. Lavell, Minneapolis Public Library; Miss Derickson, University Library, and Miss Hess, St. Paul Public Library, was then appointed to present names of officers for the ensuing year. Miss Margaret Evans, of Northfield, chairman of the Minnesota Library Commission, was present and gave a delightful talk, in which she expressed her deep interest in library work and congratulated librarians on being a part of so great a movement, drawing some apt illustrations from some of her recent experience in Egypt.

The nominating committee then reported the following list of officers: President, H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis; Vice-President, Miss Emma Hawley, Minnesota Historical Society; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss L. May Brooks, University Library.

Upon motion, the secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot for the club for the officers named, after which the meeting adjourned.

LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS.

The Middle West meeting of the League of Library Commissions was held in Chicago, January 3rd and 4th. The topics discussed included different phases of library supervision, selection of books for traveling libraries and summer schools. The Minnesota Commission was represented by its secretary, who presented the report of the Publications committee, Miss Wilson, who discussed "Balancing the course of instruction, technique vs. inspiration" in summer library schools, and Miss Carey, who spoke on Commission supervision of libraries in state institutions. The meetings of the A. L. A. Council and Institute and of college and reference librarians held in the city during the same week brought together a large number of representative librarians, and made "library week" in Chicago almost equal to an A. L. A. conference in interest and inspiration. The social side was delightfully provided for by the dinner, proposed by President Hodges, of the A. L. A., and by the reception given by the Chicago Library Club at the Art Institute of Chicago.

An Eastern meeting of the League was held in Albany February 4th and 5th, and was attended by Miss Baldwin and Miss Carey of the Minnesota Commission.

NOTES FOR LIBRARIANS.

Old Librarian's Almanac.

A most delightful contribution to library literature is the Old librarian's almanac, which appeared as Number 1 of the Librarian's series, edited by John Cotton Dana and Henry W. Kent. It purports to be a reprint of a very rare pamphlet published in 1773 by one Jared Bean. The later announcement that the publication was a "clever hoax foisted upon the unsuspecting world of librarians" does not detract from its interest. The book contains some delightful satires on the old idea of fixed location, closed shelves and the duties of the librarian, and surely deserves a place on the librarian's shelf of professional reading. The series of which this is the first number, will include six volumes of interest to all book-lovers, for which the subscription price is \$5.00. Single copies of the almanac are offered for \$1.50 each, and may be obtained of the Elm Tree Press, 189 Broad St., Newark, N. J.

The Commission will take pleasure in loaning the book to any librarian who feels the need of an hour's relaxation.

The Convention of Books.

The charming paper read by Dr. Crothers at the Bretton Woods conference was published in the Atlantic for December, under the title, a Convention of Books. It is full of delicious humor, and sets forth delightfully some of the perplexing problems which confront the librarian who is striving to raise the standard of reading. The Commission will be glad to loan this number to any librarian in the state who will not otherwise have an opportunity to read the article, on receipt of nine cents for postage.

Reading for Pleasure and Profit.

The Free Public Library, Newark, N. J., has published a pamphlet entitled Reading for Pleasure and Profit, a list of certain books which young people find entertaining; being chiefly books which older readers enjoyed when they were young. The list was compiled by High School instructors, and has grown out of actual experience in suggesting books to young people. It may be obtained by sending five cents to the Free Public Library, Newark, N. J.

For High School Students.

A circular caller "Don't be a quitter," written by S. H. Ranck, librarian of Grand Rapids, Mich., was distributed by the library to the senior class in the high school. It is in the form of a story of a boy who after leaving school continued his study by using the public library. As the result of his increased information, he worked his way up from one position to another, at increased salaries. The leaflet may be purchased from H. W. Wilson Co., Minneapolis, at 25 cents per hundred. It will pay any library, large or small, to distribute these to the members of the graduating classes.

Teacher's Assistant.

A selected list from the Minnesota catalog for Public School libraries arranged for rural schools, grades 1 to 5, has been published by the Commission. The list is adapted from The Teachers' Leaf, published by the Cleveland Public Library, and is designed to suggest books of first value to children.

An exhibit collection has been made up of the books on this list and was shown at

teachers' meetings at Granite Falls, January 28 and 29, and at International Falls, February 25 and 26.

The Commission will be glad to furnish these leaflets to any librarians or teachers who may apply for them.

* Library Aids for the Teacher.

In the Bulletin of the Duluth Normal School for February 1, 1910, Miss Ruth Ely, librarian of that school, has published some valuable suggestions for the teacher regarding library work. These summarize briefly the aids which may be obtained from the A. L. A. and from the State Library Commission, gives some excellent hints on book-selection and buying, with brief notes on the care of books, and a list of books and pamphlets helpful in library work.

Arbor Day and Memorial Day lists.

April 29th has been designated by Governor Eberhart as Arbor and Bird day in Minnesota. The Minneapolis Public Library has issued a list of books on Arbor day and Memorial Day, in its school bulletin for April. Any librarian in the state may obtain a copy by addressing Miss Mabel Bartleson, Children's Librarian, Public Library, Minneapolis.

Binding Kit.

The Waldorf Bindery, St. Paul, has made up a Librarian's repairing kit, which contains the necessary material for mending books. It includes gummed vellum in assorted colors, cloth strips, onion skin patching paper, bond stubbing paper, binder's knife, bone folder, cleaning eraser, needles, thread and a package of library paste in dry form. The price is \$2.50 (express prepaid). Address the Waldorf Bindery Co., 502 Prior Ave., St. Paul.

Index to Library Notes and News.

With this number of Library Notes and News is issued the index to volume 2 covering the years 1907 to 1909. A copy of the index is sent to every library on the mailing list of the Commission, and it is hoped that all Minnesota libraries have found the bulletin of sufficient value to preserve the numbers as part of their library literature. Individuals desiring copies of the index may obtain it by applying to the Secretary of the Commission.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The State University offers the following special series of lectures which may be secured, separately or by groups, at \$10 per lecture. Traveling expenses are paid by the University. The public library should co-operate with the University in this effort to extend popular education.

Business Economy.

Wealth and Welfare—Professor Gray.

Exploitation and Conservation—Professor Hess.

Government Regulation of Business—Professor Young.

Resources and Industries of Minnesota—Professor Robinson.

The Currency and Centralized Banking—Professor Hess.

Government and Social Progress.

Fitting One for Life's Work—Professor Gray.

Problems of Our Federal System—Professor Young.

How to Secure Good City Government in Minnesota—Professor Schaper.

Conservation and National Efficiency—Professor Hess.

City Government by Commission—Professor Young.

Address: Professor John H. Gray, Department of Economics and Political Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

The librarian of the traveling libraries has just returned from a very interesting trip through the forests of Northern Minnesota, accompanying the county superintendent of Koochiching county, Miss Annie Shelland of International Falls, in a round of visits to the rural schools.

Leaving Littlefork on February 14th a radius of 213 miles was covered in the ten days of almost continuous driving, with visits to homesteads, lumber camps, the rural schools and post offices for the purpose of establishing traveling library stations through the county. The fine roads, which only winter gives to our northern neighbors, the snow-laden forests of spruce, pine, cedar and birch made the sleighing a delight by daylight and early moon, even in the coldest weather of the year with a temperature ranging downward to 40 below. The places visited were Littlefork,,

Cross River school, Hawkins school, Harmon school, Nett River school, Johnson school, Big Falls, Bannon, Norman school, Peggar school, West Fork school, Loman, Laurel, Sioux school, Birchdale and Manitou. Subsequent trips were made to towns along the line of the M. & I. railroad, with visits to public libraries and to traveling library stations in the vicinity, including Northome, Cunningham, Orth, Blackduck, Tenstrike and Bemidji. The teachers' meeting at International Falls, February 25 and 26, afforded a further opportunity for presenting the traveling library idea to the teachers and members of the school boards, and a talk was also made on selection of books for the school library, with an exhibit showing the books selected for the "teacher's assistant."

During the months of January and February twenty-three new stations were added to the traveling library list as follows:

Amiret, Buena Vista, Chatfield; Claremont, Clinton, Cottonwood Valley, Eagle Bend, Eyota, Hill River, Independence, Ivanhoe, Meadowlands, Midway, Pelican Rapids, Perley, St. Peter (rural), Springfield, Starbuck, Svea, Tenstrike, Walters, Winnebago, Zim.

The circulation of books during the same period gives a total of 4,029 books sent out in response to 139 requests.

A traveling library was placed on exhibition at the Conservation Congress, accompanied by a map of the state showing the location of traveling libraries.

The traveling library department has recently issued two pamphlets of information. "Free traveling libraries" is a statement regarding the formation of the local library association, and describes the various ways in which the books are distributed in fixed collections, individual loans and to study clubs. A finding list of the books on agriculture, with information as to how to obtain them is to be followed by a similar list on household economics, and books on education and teaching methods.

Reservations for club libraries are now being received for the season of 1910-11 and the indications are for greater use of this collection of books, which in 1909-10 furnished libraries for 71 study clubs and 2 farmers' clubs, beside many single volumes loaned to individuals for assistance in preparing club papers.

BOOKS ON CIVICS.

There is a growing interest in civic improvement in Minnesota towns, and many village improvement leagues are carrying on vigorous campaigns.

The following list of books on civic problems is contained in the open shelf collection of the traveling library, and will be loaned singly or in small groups to any public library on payment of transportation, to be kept one month.

Government.

American Academy—Control of municipal public service corporations. Amer. Acad.
Deming—Government of American cities. Putnam.
Fairlie—Local government in counties, towns and villages. Century.
Goodnow—City government in the U. S. Century.
Howe—The city, the hope of democracy. Scribner.
Shaw—Municipal government in continental Europe. Macmillan.
Wilcox—American city. Macmillan.

Public Hygiene.

Allen—Civics and health. McClure.
Bashore—Rural hygiene. Davis.
—Outlines of practical sanitation. Wiley.
Poore—Essays on rural hygiene. Longmans.
Prudden—Dust and its dangers. Putnam.
Richards—Cost of cleanness. Kennerly.
Whitelegge & Newman—Hygiene and public health. Keener.

Sanitary Engineering.

Baker—Municipal engineering and sanitation. Putnam.
Brown—Healthy foundations for houses. Van Nostrand.
Gerhard—Disposal of household wastes. Van Nostrand.
—House drainage and sanitary plumbing. Van Nostrand.
Greenwell & Curry—Rural water supply. Crosby.
McCullough—Engineering work. Clark.
Prudden—Drinking water and ice supplies. Putnam.

Civic Art.

Robinson—Modern civic art. Putnam.

Civic Improvement Pamphlets.

American civic association. Leaflets.
Civic improvement leaflets.
Civic improvement pamphlets.
Carthage (Mo.) Civic Improvement League—Junior work.
Robinson—Cedar Rapids report.
General Federation of Women's Clubs—Civic primer.

MAGAZINE CLEARING HOUSE.

The Commission supply of 1909 magazines is very limited and any numbers for this year which the libraries do not wish to retain, will be gladly received. These are needed for reference work, and many can be used to good advantage by the traveling library stations in isolated communities. Revised lists of magazines wanted for binding by the libraries can be taken care of at this time.

PERSONAL.

Miss Lydia M. Poirier, who has been librarian of the Duluth Public Library for eleven years, has resigned her position, and left for California early in February. During Miss Poirier's administration the Carnegie building was erected and two branches have been opened. Miss Frances Earhart has been named librarian in charge until a permanent appointment is made.

Miss L. May Brooks, cataloger in the University Library, has resigned her position, and will remove to California with her mother.

Miss Mabel Newhard, formerly librarian at Carey, Ohio, a graduate of the Western Reserve Library School, has been elected librarian at Virginia, to succeed Miss Mattie Dunagan, resigned, and began her work March 1st.

Mr. James F. Fitzgerald, who has been for many years librarian of the Alexandria Public Library, has resigned his position to take effect May 1st, on his removal to Minneapolis. Mr. W. J. B. Moses, a graduate of Hamline University, author of "Dreaming river" and contributor to various magazines, has been elected to succeed Mr. Fitzgerald.

Miss Lillian Stringham, who has been librarian at Fergus Falls for ten years, was married in December to Mr. C. A. Mason. Miss Amy A. Lewis has been elected librarian and will attend the summer school of 1910.

Miss Maud Halladay, librarian at Brainerd, has been granted three months' leave of absence on account of illness, and Mrs. Lillian M. Follett was appointed to fill the position temporarily.

Miss Mabel Sterner, assistant in the Wiconna Library, was married on Christmas to Mr. Donald Babcock of Spokane. Miss Elsie Little has resigned to take a position in the Second National Bank, although she still serves as librarian in the East Branch in the evening. Misses Olga and Ada von Rohr have been elected assistants in place of Miss Sterner and Miss Little.

Miss Carroll Clarkson was elected second assistant librarian of the Owatonna public library in January.

F. I. Crane, who has been president of the Austin Library Board since its organization as a city institution, died on January 15th, after an illness of several weeks.

Those who attended the Austin meeting of the Minnesota Library Association will recall his cordial hospitality, and his interest and pride in the library as well as everything else which contributed to the development of the city. Mr. Crane was a brother of Mrs. Flora Crane Conner, the librarian at Austin.

Count Sage Goransson Posse of the University of Upsala, Sweden, has been appointed assistant cataloger in the library of the University of Minnesota. Count Posse has come to this country to study American library and educational methods.

Miss Edith Frost, librarian at Willmar, has been granted a leave of absence for six months and sailed for Europe in January. Miss Amy Hanscom has been appointed acting librarian during her absence.

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

Albert Lea. The library was closed during the last two months of 1909 on account of an epidemic of diphtheria. Additional shelving has recently been placed in the book-room, and other improvements have been made on the building during the past year.

Bemidji. The library has been removed to the new Carnegie building and will be open for use March 12th with Miss Beatrice Mills as librarian.

Benson. The Commercial Club has given the library association the use of a room adjoining its new quarters. The annual meeting of the library association was well attended, and much interest was manifested in the reports for the year, which showed a steady increase in the use of the library and a good balance in the treasury.

Blackduck. The public library of Blackduck has reached its first anniversary and a survey of the work done shows that a beginning has been made which reflects great credit on its founders—the Girls' Club.

This organization, composed of a number of young women of the town, has put into practical application their club motto, "Not for ourselves alone," and have established a library, the benefits of which they wish to extend to all the town.

The library room is centrally located, is large enough for present needs and to allow for considerable growth and extension of work. The furnishings have been chosen with good taste and the room is very attractive and cheerful. The collection of books has now reached the number of 350, most of which were gifts.

The girls have been encouraged and helped by the women of the Lincoln Study Club, by gifts from individuals and by some financial aid from the council and it is hoped that the citizens of Blackduck will now unite to form a permanent association that will take hold of the work so well begun and place the library on a permanent footing. A play recently given netted the club \$50.

Buffalo. The library board has installed a renting collection of late fiction, for which a charge of five cents for two weeks will be made.

Ceylon. A public reading room has been opened in the Congregational church building under the auspices of the Ladies' League of the church. A good supply of magazines has been donated and traveling libraries will be placed in the room.

Cloquet. A Christmas gift to the public library consisted of three Copley prints of the Vision, The Castle of the maidens, and the Deliverer from Abbey's Quest of the Holy Grail. The pictures were purchased with a fund solicited by the women who were members of Mrs. Seymour's art class several years ago.

Crookston. The Current Events Club has been responsible for a lecture course this winter, which has been very successful. Some valuable reference books and attractive editions of standard authors have already been purchased with the proceeds of this course and it is expected that about \$400 will be cleared.

Dodge Center. The public library established by the Fortnightly Club was opened December 22 with over 300 books on the shelves. Dr. Gerretson has given the use of his reception room, the merchants donate the fuel and build the fires, while Mrs. P. J. Schwarg and Mrs. A. F. Ingalls have general supervision of the work of the library. Two hundred and two books were loaned during the month of February, and a reading table will soon be added.

Duluth. An interesting collection of Japanese water colors and crayons, belonging to the Chicago Institute of Fine Arts, was on exhibition at the library for one week in December.

Eveleth. The High School library is now open for circulation under the care of Miss Teckla Jackson, the librarian, who attended the Minnesota Summer School last year.

Fairmont. At a recent meeting of the library board, it was decided to give non-residents the privileges of the library for ten cents a month, or one dollar a year, instead of requiring them to pay for the entire year as formerly.

A set of the Copley prints of the Longfellow pictures by W. L. Taylor has recently been purchased and were hung in the children's room on Longfellow's birthday.

Fergus Falls. Miss Carey, the Commission organizer, spent three weeks at Fergus Falls during February, in which she classified and arranged the public documents and assisted the new librarian in beginning her work.

Hibbing. Early in February the members of the library board entertained the council, township board and several others at the library for the purpose of giving them an opportunity of learning the progress which has been made during the past year. Refreshments were served, a musical program rendered, and a number of short talks were given by members of the board and others.

At the following meeting of the council Judge Hughes, of the library board, presented the necessity of more funds to provide for the growing demands of the work and the council showed their appreciation of the efficiency and value of the library by adding \$1,000 to the annual appropriation, making a total of \$3,500 from the village, while the township appropriates \$500 annually.

A set of the Warner Library in 30v. has been presented by Mrs. Robert Murray. A gift of \$10 has been received to be expended for pictures for the children's room.

Howard Lake. The Library and Improvement Club has received a gift of \$50 from the young ladies of the Sweet Sixteen Club.

Janesville. About \$75 was raised for the purchase of books by means of a home talent play put on by the Dramatic Club in January.

Kenyon. At a recent meeting of the city council, it was voted to furnish a room in the city hall for the use of the public library.

LeRoy. At the annual meeting of the library association, the financial report showed such a good balance in the treasury, that it was decided to add \$100 to the building fund, making a total of \$500 put aside for this purpose.

LeSueur. A special performance for the benefit of the library was given by the management of the Star Theater in January. The entertainment consisted of moving pictures with songs and recitations by local talent.

Litchfield. The children's room was made unusually attractive at the Christmas season by the addition of a frieze of burlap, on which appropriate pictures were displayed.

The annual home talent play was unusually successful, the net proceeds amounting to \$170.

Little Falls. A talk on India was given at the library by Miss Donnelly, who has just returned from a trip around the world. An admission fee of twenty-five cents was charged and the proceeds, amounting to \$23, will be devoted to purchase of books for the children's room.

Long Prairie. On January 14th, the first annual meeting of the Long Prairie library association was held. The constitution and by-laws were adopted, officers elected, and reports of committees appointed at a previous meeting were given. The Secretary of the Commission was present and gave a talk on library development in the state, with practical suggestions as to methods of organization. About \$425 has been raised by subscription, the council has agreed to furnish a room in the village hall, provide heat and light and pay the librarian.

Madison. A series of free lectures has been given during the winter under the auspices of the library board. The speakers have included Gov. A. O. Eberhart, Hon. A. J. Volstead, State Auditor S. G. Iverson, Judge E. A. Jaggard, Samuel B. Green, of the Agricultural School, and C. E. Elmquist, of the State Railroad and Warehouse Commission.

On the evening of March 5th, the Secretary of the Library Commission gave a brief

talk on the ideal library, preceding Mr. Green's address on Agricultural education. A gift of \$50 for purchase of children's books has been received from Mr. B. C. Bowman.

Mantorville. A home talent play given in January under the auspices of the Ladies' Study Club added \$30 to the library treasury.

Mapleton. The library was removed to the Carnegie building in January, and the building was formally dedicated on the evening of February 11th. The president of the board gave a brief history of the library and presented the building to the mayor, who responded with words of cordial appreciation of the service rendered by the library board. Miss Baldwin extended congratulations on behalf of the Library Commission, and the address of the evening was given by Hon. C. C. Dinehart, State Treasurer, who made an eloquent plea for higher citizenship. The building is of brick with stone trimmings and a tile roof. The interior is well arranged, equipped with furniture designed to meet the needs of the library while the walls and cork carpet are in soft browns, which harmonize with the dull finish of the oak woodwork.

Marshall. The library has received a valuable gift of 82 volumes of standard works of history and biography from the library of the late Dr. T. H. Wimer.

Minneapolis. The new branch at Camden Park in the Webber Memorial building was opened January 1st with an attendance of over 400. The building contains a gymnasium and swimming-pool on the ground floor, with the library and reading-room above, and was erected by Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Webber as a memorial to their son. The library room is very attractively furnished, and has 1,500 books on the shelves, of which a large proportion are for children and the reading room is well supplied with magazines and papers.

A reading room opened at Bridge Square late in January has had an attendance of from 200 to 700 daily. The demand for circulating books was so great that it has now been made a regular branch, and several hundred volumes have been placed on the shelves. Books have also been placed in the Y. M. C. A., the Newsboys' Club and in a number of factories.

The free lectures at the Central Library have maintained their popularity this winter, and the story hours for children have been held as usual at the Central Library, and seven branches. At the Central Library the programs have been arranged to give the children more interest in the collections of the museum and art gallery.

Monticello. The annual entertainment for the benefit of the library was given February 22nd. The receipts were about \$100.

Northfield. The Women's Clubs of Northfield held a tag day on January 22nd, when \$233.15 was raised. This amount will be spent in furnishing the children's room in the new building. The building was completed and accepted by the board in January, and will be opened as soon as the furniture is received.

Owatonna. The story hour has been conducted by Miss Chapin and Miss Clarkson, the library assistants. Myths and nature stories have been told to the younger children and hero stories to the older ones on alternate Saturday afternoons.

Park Rapids. The library was removed to the new building the latter part of January.

Paynesville. A successful course of entertainments has enabled the library association to pay all its debts, and close the year with a balance in the treasury. At the village election early in March, a tax levy of one-half mill was carried by a good majority, so that the library will now be turned over to the city.

Pipestone. The Ladies' Study Club has presented to the library fine busts of Washington and Lincoln, and the P. E. O. Society has given a handsome picture.

Preston. The promise of \$8,000 for a library building has been received from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and the council has purchased a site and passed the necessary resolution appropriating \$800 annually for its support.

Red Wing. An exhibit of sculpture, by Mr. Olson, a former citizen of Red Wing, attracted many visitors. A number of pieces have been loaned to the library for the entire winter.

Rochester. The reclassification of the li-

brary, which has been going on for the past two years, has been completed and the new card shelf is finished.

St. Cloud. The Reading Room Society celebrated its 30th anniversary by voting to give the library board \$300 a year for the next two years for the purchase of books.

St. Peter. A moving picture entertainment was given at the opera house on February 22nd for the benefit of the library. The net receipts were \$115.45, which will be spent for books.

Sandstone. The library has grown from 240 volumes when it opened in 1902 to 1,136 volumes at the close of 1909. The circulation of books has shown a marked increase during the last year, especially the children's books.

Two Harbors. Mr. Austin Terryberry, of Duluth, the architect of the Two Harbors building, has given \$200 to the library for the purchase of books. With this fund some fine editions of standard works have been placed on the shelves.

Willmar. The Housekeepers' Club has presented to the library a fine cabinet for curios.

Windom. The library association has placed a number of magazines on the reading table in the library.

Winnebago. The library has been removed to a commodious room 50 feet long, 20 feet wide, well papered and painted, with linoleum on the floor.

Winona. Libraries numbering from 30 to 50 books have been placed in eight rooms of the Jefferson School in the west part of the city, and are circulated in charge of the teacher in each room. This will probably be the beginning of a regular branch in the near future.

Mr. William Hayes has offered to the library a painting by Kenyon Cox to be placed in the south lunette of the delivery room. The painting is a memorial to his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Prentiss Hayes, who was one of the founders of the library and for a long time closely associated with its activities. The gift was accepted by the library board with appropriate resolutions of appreciation.